THE
Dan Smoot Report

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DAN SMOOT

REAPING THE HARVEST OF FORCED INTEGRATION

The Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee has completed a survey of 100 public school districts in the United States. Violence in schools has become so prevalent, the subcommittee learned, that teaching, everywhere, "has been reduced to the level of keeping discipline." In many school systems, teachers go armed for self protection. In East St. Louis, Illinois, three teachers out of four carry guns to school and in the classrooms "to protect themselves against the constant possibility of assaults within and outside their classrooms."(1)

The subcommittee found that crime in schools increased enormously during the 1964-1968 period. Here are the crimes *reported* in the public schools of 100 districts during 1968:

26 homicides; 1508 robberies; 680 aggravated assaults; 14,102 burglaries and larcenies; 250,544 cases of vandalism; 1089 weapons offenses; 854 narcotics violations; 1035 cases of drunkenness; 1801 assaults on teachers; 4267 student assaults on other students; other offenses, 8824.(1)

These statistics give only an inkling of what is happening, because many principals try to conceal the fact that crimes occur in their schools.(1)

Moreover, violence in public schools is rising faster in the current school year than in 1968. The public schools are becoming the most violent battlegrounds of American society.(2)

In the first 13 weeks of the present school year, there were 250 injuries to students, teachers, and police; 900 arrests,(3) on charges including murder, assault on police, and conspiracy to commit arson.(2)

The Senate subcommittee says it is a "myth" that most violence in public schools is racial in origin, because, it claims, most of the violence is committed by Negroes against Negroes, or by whites against whites. That conclusion may be justified from the subcommittee's statistics, but the subcommittee admits that its statistics are "too sketchy to express more than a trend."(1)

Wherever the public schools are integrated (to the extent that there is a significant number of

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Negroes among whites, or a significant number of whites among Negroes), racial tensions cause most crimes of violence; and the violence frequently starts with Negroes making unprovoked attacks on whites.[2] Primary causes of school violence in integrated schools are: (1) the militancy and race-hatred instilled in Negro youth;[2] and (2) school officials' cringing permissiveness toward unruly Negro students.

Since schools opened in September, 1969, there has not been one school day when there was no incidence of violence in a public school somewhere is the country; and most of the incidents involved conflict between whites and Negroes.[2]

A somewhat typical situation exists in the Wichita Falls, Texas, high schools, which have been technically integrated for some time — in the sense that students were not assigned to schools because of race. But, as happens in most places where freedom of choice is allowed, little actual integration occurred, because students chose to attend schools in their own neighborhoods.

This "de facto" segregation was displeasing to the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. HEW officials, together with Wichita Falls school board officials, worked out a busing plan to achieve more integration, beginning in the 1969-70 school year.

The first racial violence occurred September 4, 1969, at Wichita Falls Senior High. I have handwritten statements from three white boys who were innocent victims of that affair. Here, in their own words, is what happened:

TOM (Age 15): We were all three walking between the high school and the tennis courts which are located about ten feet from the . . . side of the high school. . . . when we noticed the Negroes coming around the corner of the tennis courts. They were unloading off the school buses. Some of the colored people were going in through the side door.

As we were walking toward them, four of them left the group going into the school and went out of their way to approach us. They stopped Roy. At this time, Bob and I were about five feet away.

The one with the blue tinted glasses, mod striped bell bottoms, Afro hairdo, and bright colored shirt walked over to Roy and said, Hey, man, give me a quarter. There were three other colored boys with him. They surrounded Roy.

Roy said, I don't have a quarter. The one that asked Roy for the money then put his hand on Roy's face and said, that's all right man, and shoved him backward, then he busted Roy in the face.

Bob and I walked back over there and said why don't you just leave him alone and go on in. About that time, I just happened to look over and notice two of my friends walk into the side door. I said for them to come here. . . . I . . . wanted them . . . in case there was more trouble. It was too late. They were shoved inside the side door, and the door was held shut by five Negroes.

We were then surrounded by four Negroes. I then got busted in the mouth. . . . While I was holding my mouth for fear of losing my teeth, one colored boy was swinging at me in front while I was being kicked from behind and hit in the back. A few seconds later, another colored boy came over to help out. That made three on me. . . . "

ROY (Age 17): One of the colored boys . . . . pulled out a razor and came at me swinging it in my face trying to cut my throat, so I . . . [held] my book . . . in front of me so that I would not get cut. He chased me back against a truck and I threw my book at his chest, as three more boys came in beside him. Then a teacher, Mrs. Jordon, came and chased the colored boys off.

BOB (age 15): I had not been approached by any of the Negroes up until the one with the razor . . . gave up on Roy. I did not see

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the razor. . . . I thought he was going to hit me in the face, so I blocked his blow with my left arm and swung at him with my right arm.

After that, they went inside because of Mrs. Jordon. At first, I thought the lower part of my arm had been cut . . . by a ring on his fist. Mrs. Jordon told us to walk around to the front of the school. Half way around there, I saw that my shoulder had been sliced badly.

Mr. Cowan took Tom and . . . [me] to the General Hospital. . . . Tom's . . . teeth were cared for. . . . I got eight stitches in the upper part of my arm and four in the lower part of my arm.

Tom, Roy and Bob were unable to tell the principal who their assailants were; but another white boy (who works on the school newspaper) had taken photographs of the fight. When his film was developed, a Negro student identified the three attackers.

All three Negroes were arrested and charged with assault. Later, charges were dismissed — because of lack of identification. Nine white cafeteria workers, two teachers, the white boy who took photographs, and other students saw the fight. For some mysterious reason, none of these was subpoenaed. The only witnesses permitted to testify were the three victims — whose identifications were not positive. The Negroes were readmitted to school, and required to shake hands with the three white boys.[4]

Though the white boys did not even know the Negroes who attacked them, local news media and school superintendent Don Waldrip tried to characterize the violence as a "grudge fight" of minor significance, and with no racial overtones. Waldrip even suggested that the Negroes had acted in self-defense, that no razor had been used, and that the whites may have been the aggressors.[4]

On the evening of September 8, 1969, about 200 parents showed up for a public meeting of the Wichita Falls school board.

They reported numerous incidents of Negro boys following white girls in the halls, making obscene remarks to and about them; Negro boys forcibly fondling white girls; gangs of Negro girls singling out and assaulting white girls in rest rooms; Negroes creating disturbances in class rooms with teachers refraining from trying to impose discipline.

The parents complained about a public statement made by high school principals that there had been no "major" incident in the schools. The school superintendent supported the principals, asserting:

"We are operating three fine educational institutions . . . at almost normal manner for this time in the semester . . . with virtually no breakdown in discipline."[5]

That was on the evening of September 8.

On September 11, C. H. Dowdy, 37-year-old biology teacher at Hirschi High School, approached a group of Negro boys in a school hallway, asking them to button their shirts and remove their hats. Refusing to obey, the Negroes walked away "making some wisecracks." Dowdy followed, put his hand on one of the boys, and said "Let's go to the office." The Negroes knocked Dowdy down, kicked him in the back and in the back of the head, then fled from the building.[6]

Six of the Negroes were identified and arrested. Three of them (being 17 years old) were tried as adults. Each was given a four-year probated sentence. The other three (being under 17) were handled as juveniles, and sent to a reformatory.[4]

Trouble continued, but news media and school officials tried to ignore it or treat it as insignificant.

In December, 1969, HEW officials notified the Wichita Falls school board that it must produce a plan "for further integration" within a month.[7]

On December 13, 1969, five Negro girls surrounded a white girl on the grounds of Wichita Falls Senior High. One Negro pulled the white girl's hair. She struck at her tormentor. All five

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Negroes then beat the white viciously. A male teacher, who watched the attack but did nothing, later admitted he was "not satisfied with his own performance." He said he was too "stunned" to react. The father of the white girl said that if she had not been rescued by two women, the Negro girls "would have killed her."[8]

No charges were filed in this case. All the girls — including the white victim — were equally punished, by temporary suspension.[7] The white girl was suspended because she allegedly called one of the Negroes a name during the fight.[8] All the girls were readmitted after Christmas holidays.[7] School officials assigned a Negro boy to escort and protect the white girl between classes.[4]

The Wichita Falls school board met on January 12, 1970, with nothing on its agenda but routine business about bids, contracts, and so on. But parents filled the meeting room, and demanded that something be done about racial violence in the high schools.[7,8]

Superintendent Waldrip admitted that racial integration is the main cause of "discipline problems" in the schools.[8] He revealed that, on instructions from the board, he had written to HEW in Washington pleading for more time to produce a plan for the "further integration" that HEW is demanding.

To placate concerned parents, the school board promised to station, in all three Wichita Falls high schools, as many plainclothes policemen as necessary to maintain order.[8]

Though it illustrates the *general* turmoil that illegal forced integration causes in public schools, the Wichita Falls situation is much less dangerous than in many school systems where policies of the federal government have created real jungles of violence and terror. It is also much less sinister than in the Deep South where hundreds of thousands of hapless school children are involved.

HEW officials who illegally order the integration; school officials who embrace or welcome it; federal judges who illegally enforce it — all of these people deserve contempt; but the most contemptible of all are the Members of Congress who, instead of using their constitutional powers to stop it, illegally appropriate our money to pay for it.

BOUND VOLUME

The 1969 Bound Volume is now off the press. All who have already ordered the volume should receive it by March 1. About half of the total run was sold before publication, and more cannot be printed. Future orders for the 1969 Volume will be filled as soon as they are received — at the regular price of $10.00 each.

We have a limited number of 1968 Bound Volumes available at the regular $10.00 price.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Dallas *Morning News*, Jan. 13, 1970, p. A3

(2) Syndicated column of Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, Jan. 12, 1970

(3) *U. S. News & World Report*, Jan. 5, 1970, p. 8

(4) Oral and written statements made by a prominent Wichita Falls resident, who wishes to be anonymous

(5) Wichita Falls *Record News*, Sept. 9, 1969, pp. 1, 2

(6) Wichita Falls *Times*, Sept. 11, 1969, p. A4

(7) Wichita Falls *Times*, Jan. 13, 1970, p. 2

(8) Wichita Falls *Record News*, Jan. 13, 1970, pp. 1, 2

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